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BOROUGH OF WIDNES




Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1959



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BOROUGH OF WIDNES
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1959

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the health of Widnes for 1959 and am happy to report an excellent year with the health of the Borough comparing very favourably with that of previous years.

The birth rate was higher than the previous year and the death rate was the lowest since 1953. Substantial decreases from the mortality figures for 1958 have occurred in infants under one year, in cancer of the lung, cancer (all forms), tuberculosis and bronchitis; and deaths under the age of 65 years were down to 38% of the total.

The adjusted birth rate of 20.6 per 1,000 of the population was higher than the figure for 1958 and for the average of the previous five years. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.5

The adjusted death rate was 12.9 per 1,000 of the population compared with 14.2 for 1958. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.6

The infant mortality rate of 23.5 per 1,000 live births and the combined stillbirth and infant death rate of 47 per 1,000 total births were both the lowest ever recorded in the Borough.

There were no maternal deaths.

The death rate from cancer of all types per 1,000 of the population was 1.60 compared with 2.14 for England and Wales and showing a decrease of .59 over the 1958 rate. For the second year in succession there has been a substantial drop in deaths from cancer of the lung and the rate for Widnes, 0.29 per 1,000 of the population, has now fallen below the national figure, which was 0.46 in 1959.

Deaths resulting from vascular lesions of the nervous system again showed an increase and there was also a slight rise in deaths from circulatory disease. Although road traffic deaths were the highest since 1950, there was a decrease in total deaths due to accidents.

The case rate for tuberculosis which has been continuously improving during recent years has shown a marked reduction for 1959 being .45 per 1,000 of the population compared with .59 for 1958. The mortality rate was .04 per 1,000 as against .10 the previous year. The figures for England and Wales were .6 and .08 respectively.

Our inability to recruit or maintain a full establishment of Public Health Inspectors has again, during 1959, somewhat restricted the work of the department. The shortage of technical staff became acute in the second half of the year when two resignations in July reduced the staff to two qualified inspectors.

One pupil public health inspector qualified during the year but was immediately called up to do his National Service. As the other pupil inspector was expected to qualify in 1960, and in an effort to ease the situation in the future, two further pupils were appointed. In order to overcome the immediate problems an assistant housing inspector holding a National Certificate in Building was appointed in December.

Despite these staffing difficulties it was found possible to inspect and represent sufficient houses for demolition or closure to keep pace with the Council's building programme. Twenty houses in 3 clearance areas and 2 individual houses were represented for demolition and 7 for closure. During the year 138 houses were demolished and sites cleared under the supervision of this department. In addition 706 houses were inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Act, when 1,164 nuisances were discovered for the abatement of which 469 preliminary and 333 formal notices were served.

The detailed survey of the Smoke Control Area No. 1 was undertaken and completed during the year. This area comprises of approximately 1,000 acres of residential development containing 2,979 dwelling houses and 97 other premises. The existing equipment for the measurement of atmospheric pollution was maintained and a limited amount of observation of factory chimneys and necessary investigation was carried out.

Inspection of food premises, travelling shops and food delivery vehicles was also restricted. A total of 216 inspections were carried out and in addition to verbal warnings, 14 notices were served and fines obtained, upon prosecution, in respect of 6 offences under the Food and Drugs Act. Sampling of milk and other food was maintained and 219 milk licences were granted. In addition 28 other licences or certificates of registration were issued. Altogether during the year, apart from the Smokeless Zone Survey, 4,139 visits to premises were made.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year, and also to the officials of the Corporation, in particular to Mr. D. M. Griffiths, for their assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. BUNTING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Centre,
Kingsway,
Widnes.
Tel. No. Widnes 3055.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,178
Population at Census, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48,785
Population estimated, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51,200
Density of Population (i.e. No. of persons per acre)	...	...						8.3
No. of Inhabited Houses (1951 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,459
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1959 according to rate book)	...							14,425
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£538,982
Sum represented by 1d rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,180

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births

Number - Males 593 Females 515	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,108
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...						4.7

Stillbirths

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...					23.8
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,135
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

Infant mortality rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...						23.5
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births								22.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births								38.5
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.2
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.5
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	...	...					37.0

Maternal mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...				Nil

Deaths

Number - Males 267, Females 203	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	470
Rate per 1,000 population - Crude	...	...	...	...	...			9.2
Adjusted	...	...	...	...	...			12.9
Excess of births over deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	638
Death rate from influenza per 1,000 of the population	...	...						.06
Death rate from cancer per 1,000 of the population	...	...						1.60
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population								.04
Death rate from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death rate from whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Percentage of total deaths occurring in hospitals etc.	...	...						49

POPULATION -

The population returns since 1861 are given below:-

Year	Population	Inhabited Houses	Average per house
1861	6,893	1,150	5.99
1871	14,359	2,519	5.66
1881	24,918	4,994	5.00
1891	30,011	5,121	5.86
1901	28,580	5,350	5.34
1911	31,544	6,102	5.16
1921	38,879	7,437	5.22
1931	40,619	8,534	4.63
1951	48,785	12,459	3.91
Est. 1959	51,200	14,425	3.55

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year 1959 was 51,200. This is an increase of 570 over the estimated population for 1958.

BIRTHS -

	Totals	Males	Females	
Legitimate	1,156	568	488	} Birth-rate ... 20.6
Illegitimate	52	25	27	
Birth-rate for England and Wales				16.5

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS -

The percentage of births which were illegitimate during each of the past fifteen years is as follows:-

1945	9.8 per cent	1952	4.1 per cent
1946	7.0 per cent	1953	4.2 per cent
1947	4.7 per cent	1954	3.2 per cent
1948	4.5 per cent	1955	3.3 per cent
1949	4.3 per cent	1956	4.0 per cent
1950	4.5 per cent	1957	4.2 per cent
1951	5.1 per cent	1958	4.1 per cent
	1959		4.7 per cent

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1959 -

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasms -									
Stomach	15	-	-	-	-	1	8	3	3
Lung, bronchus	15	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	1
Breast	6	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	2
Uterus	5	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	40	-	-	1	2	1	11	9	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	73	-	-	1	3	4	20	16	29
Coronary disease, Angina	66	-	-	-	-	2	27	21	16
Hypertension with heart disease	8	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	2
Other heart diseases	54	-	-	-	-	1	5	19	29
Other circulatory diseases	32	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	23
Influenza	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	23	2	-	-	-	-	2	7	12
Bronchitis	33	-	-	-	-	1	3	16	13
Other diseases of resp. system	6	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	5	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other diseases	43	19	-	-	2	-	2	5	15
Motor vehicle accidents	6	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-
All other accidents	12	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	6
Suicide	5	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1
Homicide and War	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals:	470	26	3	4	14	17	116	115	175

DEATHS FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS OVER THE PAST TWELVE YEARS AND RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION -

Year	Age Groups					Per 1,000 total population	
	1-14	15-44	45-64	65 & over	All ages	Widnes	England & Wales
1948	1	6	39	33	79	1.66	1.91
1949	-	7	30	40	77	1.60	1.93
1950	2	6	30	52	90	2.00	1.94
1951	2	13	36	37	88	1.80	1.96
1952	1	11	43	48	103	2.11	1.99
1953	1	9	44	59	113	2.31	1.99
1954	-	8	30	48	86	1.74	2.04
1955	-	7	40	59	106	2.12	2.06
1956	-	8	46	50	104	2.08	2.08
1957	1	4	45	55	105	2.08	2.09
1958	-	6	48	57	111	2.19	2.12
1959	2	6	32	42	82	1.60	2.14

DETAILS OF CANCER DEATHS OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS -

Year	Site	Age Groups					Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	Total All ages	
		1-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75 +		M	F
1952	Stomach	-	1	2	5	4	0.25	7	5
	Lung bronchus	-	3	17	9	2	0.63	26	5
	Other sites	1	7	24	20	8	1.23	25	35
1953	Stomach	-	1	3	10	5	0.39	10	9
	Lung bronchus	-	4	15	10	1	0.61	28	2
	Other sites	1	4	26	22	11	1.31	34	30
1954	Stomach	-	-	5	7	3	0.30	8	7
	Lung bronchus	-	1	11	9	1	0.44	21	1
	Other sites	-	7	14	15	13	1.00	25	24
1955	Stomach	-	1	6	8	3	0.36	12	6
	Lung bronchus	-	-	15	16	2	0.66	31	2
	Other sites	-	6	19	15	15	1.10	24	31
1956	Stomach	-	-	7	9	4	0.40	9	11
	Lung bronchus	-	2	13	12	4	0.62	27	4
	Other sites	-	6	26	17	4	1.06	23	30
1957	Stomach	-	-	7	8	3	0.36	12	6
	Lung bronchus	-	-	14	12	4	0.59	26	4
	Other sites	1	4	17	24	11	1.13	31	26
1958	Stomach	-	-	10	8	4	0.43	12	10
	Lung bronchus	-	-	12	8	3	0.45	20	3
	Other sites	-	6	26	18	16	1.30	26	40
1959	Stomach	-	1	8	3	3	0.29	12	3
	Lung bronchus	-	-	7	7	1	0.29	13	2
	Other sites	2	5	17	9	19	1.02	18	34

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM -

The following table shows death rates per 1,000 of the population from diseases of the respiratory system which occurred in the Borough, together with corresponding data for England and Wales.

Disease	Widnes	England & Wales
Influenza	.06	.17
Pneumonia	.45	.60
Bronchitis	.64	.62
Other diseases of respiratory system	.12	.11
Cancer of lung and bronchus	.29	.46
Respiratory Tuberculosis	.04	.08

DETAILS OF DEATHS DUE TO ACCIDENTS -

There was a decrease in deaths due to accidents during the year under review and the total figure was lower than the average of the past ten years. The following tables show:-

(a) CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS - 1959

CAUSE	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years and over	All ages
Road traffic accidents	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	7
Falls	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Works accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drowning	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Burns	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
Other accidental deaths	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
TOTALS	-	-	1	8	2	1	6	18

(b) PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS

Year	All Causes	Road Traffic	Works	Falls
1950	30	10	2	7
1951	13	2	1	5
1952	8	4	-	2
1953	13	3	-	6
1954	19	5	2	8
1955	25	4	3	10
1956	19	6	1	6
1957	14	4	2	4
1958	22	4	2	7
1959	18	7	-	4

The following table summarises the vital statistics of the Borough:

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths Regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1959	1108	21.6	470	9.2	27	24	Nil	Nil	26	23	19	16
1958	1045	20.6	511	10.1	26	24	Nil	Nil	38	36	27	26
1957	1153	22.9	477	9.5	29	25	1	0.85	32	28	23	20
1956	1011	20.2	472	9.4	34	33	Nil	Nil	30	30	18	18
1955	970	19.5	501	10.0	26	26	2	2.01	29	30	19	20
1954	904	18.3	478	9.7	36	38	1	1.06	22	24	17	19
Ave. 5 years, 1954-58	1017	20.3	488	9.7	30	29	.8	0.78	30	30	21	21

Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor 0.95) - 20.6

Adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.41) - 12.9

VITAL STATISTICS

The following provisional figures based on the Registrar General's Quarterly Returns of birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases for England and Wales are shown together with corresponding data in respect of the Borough of Widnes.

	England & Wales	Borough of Widnes
	Rates per 1,000 population	Rates per 1,000 population
<u>Births:</u>		
Live births	16.5	20.6 (c)
	(0.35	0.53
Stillbirths	(20.7 (a)	23.8 (a)
<u>Deaths:</u>		
All causes	11.6	12.9 (c)
Tuberculosis (all forms)	0.085	0.04
Respiratory	0.077	0.04
Non-respiratory	0.008	Nil
Cancer (all forms)	2.14	1.60
Lung and bronchus	0.46	0.29
Other cancer	1.68	1.31
Maternal mortality (total)	0.38 (a)	Nil
Maternal causes		
(excluding abortion)	0.32 (a)	Nil
Due to abortion	0.06 (a)	Nil
Infant mortality	22.0 (b)	23.5 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	15.8 (b)	16.2 (b)
<u>Notifications (Corrected):</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.003	Nil
Paratyphoid Fever	0.008	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	0.016	Nil
Scarlet Fever	1.055	1.31
Whooping Cough	0.732	1.73
Diphtheria	0.002	Nil
Erysipelas	0.071	0.08
Smallpox	0.000	Nil
Measles	11.880	8.93
Acute Pneumonia	0.590	0.27
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.022	0.14
Acute Encephalitis	0.006	Nil
Dysentery	0.784	0.17
Food Poisoning	0.220	0.17
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.236	0.02
Tuberculosis -		
Respiratory	0.540	0.33
Meninges and C.N.S	0.005	Nil
Other	0.058	0.12

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) Adjusted rate.

The following statistics are taken from the annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health for the years 1929, 1939 and 1949 and are shown together with comparable data relating to the year under review. Rates are per 1,000 of population or as shown.

	1959	1949	1939	1929
Estimated population	51,200	48,090	44,470	40,890
Crude birth-rate	21.6	21.1	19.95	21.6
Crude death rate	9.2	10.7	12.7	13.5
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	23	53	72	84
Maternal mortality per 1,000 births	Nil	Nil	1.13	3.38
Deaths from measles	Nil	Nil	Nil	.02
Deaths from diphtheria	Nil	Nil	.07	.12
Deaths from whooping cough	Nil	.02	.11	.22
Deaths from scarlet fever	Nil	Nil	Nil	.05
Deaths from respiratory tuberculosis	.04	.54	.49	.90
Deaths from tuberculosis (other forms)	Nil	.12	.11	.19
Deaths from cancer	1.60	1.60	1.49	.96
Deaths under 65 years of age - percentage of total	38	49	55	68

INFANT MORTALITY

The causes of deaths of infants during 1959 are recorded in the following table. It will be noted that as in previous years the chief group is one relating to premature births. There were 26 deaths of infants under one year, producing a rate of 23.5 per 1,000 live births which is the lowest ever recorded for the Borough.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
Congenital malformations	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	4
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Birth injuries	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gastro Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Haemolytic disease of newborn	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Other Diseases	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Total	17	-	2	-	19	4	2	-	1	26

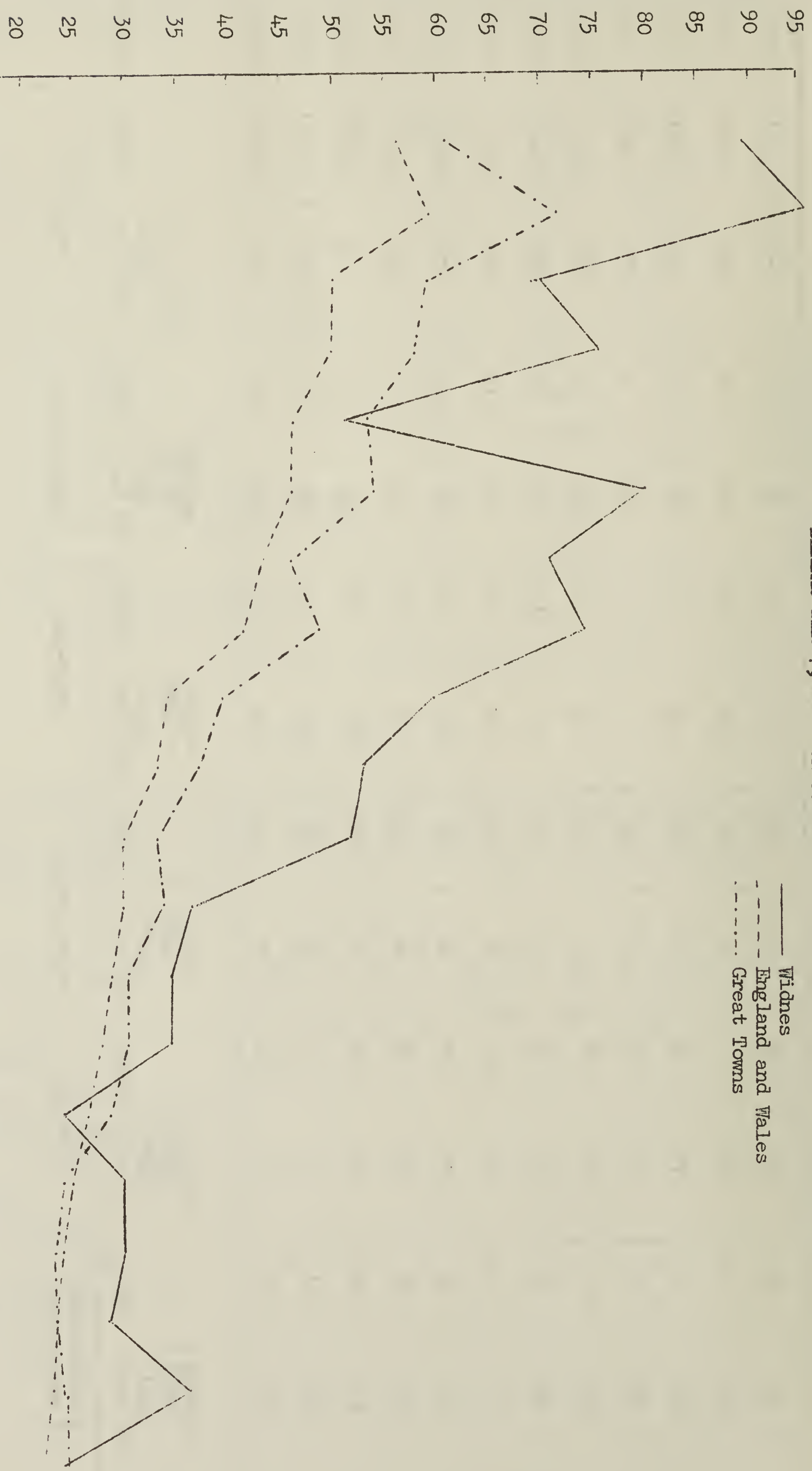
BOROUGH OF WIDNES

DEATHS OF INFANTS 1948-59

Year	Live Births		Stillbirths		Neo-natal		Infant Deaths		Perinatal		Stillbirths + Infant Deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 population	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births
1948	1,086	22.8	26	23	28	26	66	60	54	49	92	83
1949	1,013	21.1	23	22	29	29	54	53	52	49	77	74
1950	1,050	21.7	29	27	25	24	54	51	54	50	83	77
1951	1,001	20.7	22	22	23	23	36	36	45	44	58	57
1952	982	20.3	25	25	23	23	33	34	48	48	58	58
1953	961	19.9	27	27	23	24	33	34	50	52	60	61
1954	904	18.3	36	38	17	19	22	23	53	56	58	62
1955	970	19.5	26	26	19	20	29	30	45	45	55	55
1956	1,011	20.2	34	33	18	18	30	30	52	50	64	61
1957	1,153	22.9	29	25	23	20	32	28	52	44	61	51
1958	1,045	20.6	26	24	27	26	38	36	53	49	64	60
1959	1,108	21.6	27	24	18	16	26	23	45	37	53	47

INFANT MORTALITY
DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

— Widnes
 --- England and Wales
 Great Towns



LABORATORY FACILITIES -

Ninety-two faecal specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during 1959. Of these, 29 specimens involving 21 patients were reported to be positive for either Shigella sonne or Salmonella typhi murium.

In addition two examinations of Water Department personnel, to exclude possible carriers of para typhoid, were made during the year. Ninety-four specimens were submitted to bacteriological examination for this purpose. Negative results were obtained in all cases.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE -

(i) Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	67	9	-
Para-typhoid	-	-	-
Dysentery	8	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	14	5	1
Erysipelas	4	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Measles	457	1	-
Whooping Cough	89	8	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	7	7	-
Acute Polioencephalitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	8	-	-
Tuberculosis -			
(a) Pulmonary {M	11	4	1
{F	6	2	1
{Total	17	6	2
(b) Non- {M	3	3	-
Pulmonary {F	3	2	-
{Total	6	5	-

(ii) Analysis of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups

C A S E S N O T I F I E D											
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years & over	Age un- known
Scarlet Fever ...	67	-	5	15	35	8	2	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles 	457	27	135	144	147	1	1	1	-	-	1
Whooping Cough ...	89	13	16	16	44	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia ...	14	1	2	2	-	1	-	4	-	4	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis -											
Paralytic ...	7	-	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic ...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas 	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Dysentery 	8	1	2	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
Paratyphoid ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	8	1	3	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis											
M	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-
F	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
Non-Res. Tuberculosis											
M	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
F	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS: 	678	43	170	180	234	12	4	17	13	4	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM -

There were no cases of ophthalmia neonatorum during the year.

SCARLET FEVER -

Sixty-seven cases were notified during the year. The number of cases notified during the preceding five years were: 1954 - 54: 1955 - 51: 1956 - 56: 1957 - 64: 1958 - 59:

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS -

The following table shows details of the incidence of poliomyelitis during the past eleven years. Only one of these cases had been inoculated against the disease and this was a very mild non-paralytic case.

PARALYTIC						NON PARALYTIC					
Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths
1949	6	1	1954	4	1	1949	1	-	1954	-	-
1950	4	-	1955	3	-	1950	-	-	1955	1	-
1951	1	-	1956	6	-	1951	-	-	1956	2	-
1952	2	-	1957	-	-	1952	1	-	1957	-	-
1953	2	-	1958	3	-	1953	-	-	1958	-	-
			1959	6	-				1959	1	-

DIPHTHERIA -

There have been four confirmed cases of diphtheria in the Borough during the past twelve years, the last case being notified in 1956. Over the previous ten years which was a period immediately prior to the commencement of immunisation, there were 765 cases including 27 deaths.

These figures underline the importance of maintaining a high percentage of immunisation against the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS -

Details of cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during 1959 will be found in the following table:-

Age Periods (Years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	3	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
55 - 64	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	11	6	3	3	1	1	-	-
	17		6		2		-	

The following table gives the incidence of tuberculosis during the past thirty years:-

Annual Average	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Case Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Case Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1929 - 1933	1.30	.87	.98	.18
1934 - 1938	.85	.64	.59	.16
1939 - 1943	.84	.53	.69	.14
1944 - 1948	1.10	.44	.56	.09
1949 - 1953	1.27	.39	.23	.05
1954 - 1958	.65	.09	.10	.01
1959	.33	.04	.12	Nil

Seventeen cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with 27 the previous year. There were 2 deaths from the disease as against 4 in 1958.

Improving environmental conditions and a population which is becoming more enlightened in matters of public health are to a large extent responsible for the progress being made in our efforts to eliminate this disease. It is significant to compare the case rate of .33 and the death rate of .04 with the national rates of .54 and .08 respectively.

There were 6 cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis but no deaths from the disease compared with 3 cases and 1 death during 1958.

The following table shows the number of cases which have been reported as having recovered from the disease over the past 8 years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Other Forms</u>
1952	2	20
1953	7	22
1954	20	22
1955	16	8
1956	14	7
1957	16	2
1958	12	6
1959	9	4

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

A record of the work of the Public Health Department is as follows:-

Defects or Nuisances:	No. discovered	...	...	...	...	...	1,232
	No. abated	...	...	...	...	...	1,067
	No. being dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	165
No. of Notices served:	Informal	...	...	...	...	...	459
	Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	347
No. of Legal Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,190
No. of visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,139

Premises kept under observation							Number of Premises	No. of Inspections
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	191	14
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	433	216
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	8
Premises from which milk is sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	152	157
Shops selling ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	152	31
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	60
Tents and Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
Visits to premises where cases of infectious disease have occurred							121	
No. of premises disinfected after case of infectious disease							75	
Schools - Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	
Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	
Further Education	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Nursery	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Special	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION -

There are twenty closets attached to privy middens but they are situated in the rural part of the Borough and cannot be converted owing to the absence of adequate sewers. There are seven waste closets in existence and it is calculated that 14,317 houses are provided with fresh water closets.

REFUSE REMOVAL -

This work is carried out entirely by the Highways Department, for which purpose covered vehicles are used. There are fourteen ashpits attached to privies; the remaining houses in the Borough are provided with portable bins.

DISINFESTATION -

Seventy-nine houses belonging to the Corporation and one hundred and thirty-seven private dwellings and other premises were treated because of verminous infestation. In addition one hundred and ten houses in clearance areas were disinfested prior to tenants' removal to Corporation houses.

RODENT CONTROL -

Two whole-time rodent operatives were employed by the Local Authority and carried out their work to the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. A summary of the work carried out during the period is appended:-

Premises treated during the year							For mice	For rats
Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	158
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	12
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	23
Factory Canteens		...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	6
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Market	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
Places of Worship		...	...	...	...	...	-	3
Local Authority Premises		...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	1
Brooks and Ditches		...	...	...	...	...	-	3
Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	6
Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	44
Agricultural Premises		...	...	...	...	...	-	32

Main sewer treatments are now carried out systematically throughout the year in conjunction with surface treatments. This method of continuous treatment is thought to give better control, in addition to which the rodent operatives are more effectively employed throughout the year.

HOUSING ACTS 1936-57 -

The table set out below shows details of property represented for demolition or closure during 1959.

PROPERTY	Number of houses dealt with		
	Individual houses		Clearance Areas
	Closure	Demolition	Demolition
2 Martley Street	1		
1 William Street	1		
290 & 292 Hale Road		2	
26 Catherine Street	1		
16 Cliffe Street	1		
1-7 Appleton Lodge			7
24 Ann Street	1		
9 Charlotte Street	1		
106-118 Lugsdale Road			7
6-16 Wright Street			6
2 Farrant Street	1		
TOTAL:	7	2	20

It will be observed that twenty houses in three clearance areas and two individual unfit houses were represented for demolition and seven for closure during 1959. During this period one hundred and forty-one houses were demolished and nine houses were closed.

In October the Council asked that further representations of unfit areas and individual dwellings be withheld. This decision was taken in view of the urgency with which 78 houses were required for re-housing families displaced by the construction of the Runcorn-Widnes Bridge.

The number of houses represented as unfit during the year has therefore fallen considerably below the figure originally set as a target for the year.

New house construction by the Local Authority during 1959 was given as 126 houses of which the majority were taken up by slum clearance needs.

RENT ACT 1957 -

This Act came into effect on the 6th June, 1957, and the following table shows some details of work carried out by the department from that date to the end of 1959, and for the year under review.

	June 1957 to Dec. 1959	1959
Applications for Certificates of Disrepair received	441	68
Applications for Certificates of Disrepair accepted	434	68
Undertakings accepted (on Form K)	252	42
Certificates of Disrepair issued	104	24
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled upon application	31	12
Applications for Certificates as to the Remedying of Defect (on Form O):		
by Tenants	5	2
by Landlords	1	1
Certificates granted: to Tenants	4	1
to Landlords	1	1

There were sixty-eight applications for Certificates of Disrepair made during the year. Although this figure was lower than for 1958, applications from tenants continued throughout the year. In the majority of cases landlords gave undertakings to carry out the work but where undertakings were not forthcoming and the repairs not carried out within the specified period, Certificates of Disrepair were issued. In many cases where Certificates of Disrepair have been issued and work has later been carried out, tenants have reverted to paying the full rent and consequently landlords have not made application for cancellation of the certificates. This means of course, that Certificates of Disrepair are actually still in force on those dwellings.

SWIMMING BATHS -

The swimming bath serving the Borough is old and totally inadequate. It is owned by the Imperial Chemical Industries Limited and loaned to the Corporation.

The water supply is deep well from the Widnes Corporation mains and is treated with chlorine and soda and alum. It is changed every four hours. Samples of the water are taken from the bath at regular intervals during the season and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results of samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

At the time of writing work is in progress for the erection of new swimming baths.

AIR POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

Although there has been a considerable reduction in the density and frequency of emission of smoke and fumes from factories during the year, this is not reflected in the figure for the annual average deposit obtained.

The six stations within the Borough for the measurement of pollution have continued in operation throughout the year. From the analyst's report on these stations it is estimated that the average annual deposit for the whole of the Borough for 1959 was 290.15 tons per square mile. This is an increase of 94.4 tons per square mile on the figure for 1958 of 195.7 tons (the lowest figure so far recorded.) This increase is accounted for by unusual climatic conditions. The first was the exceptionally dry summer giving rise to considerable surface dust which was recorded by the gauges throughout the summer months. The second condition was an abnormally high saline content recorded in all the gauges during December when the prevailing winds were blowing strong to gale force from both the coast and the River Mersey. Sulphur in the atmosphere is recorded by the lead peroxide method as milligrammes of sulphur trioxide absorbed per day per 100 sq. cm. of exposed surface treated with lead peroxide. The daily average for 1958 was 2.30 milligrammes. This is the same as the figure for 1958. Volumetric apparatus is also in use at the Health Centre, where the sulphur dioxide content of the air is estimated daily and the suspended impurities by means of a filter paper and a smoke stain reflectometer. Sulphur dioxide calculated by this method showed a daily average of 24.35 parts per 100,000,000 for the year and suspended impurities a daily average of 2.17 milligrammes per 100 cubic meters.

Three major industrial undertakings have converted their plant from raw coal combustion to oil firing during the year, and in several other cases modifications have been made to existing plant. Throughout the year the department has maintained its close co-operation with the Alkali Works Inspector, whose help and advice has been sought on a number of occasions.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 -

(a) Smoke Control Areas

During the year the department carried out a detailed survey of the area approved in principle by the Council in October, 1958.

A detailed report was submitted to the Council in November, 1959, and the local authority made the Borough of Widnes (No. 1) Smoke Control Order. The Order includes some 2,979 dwellings and 97 other premises, in an area of 1,000 acres at Ditton on the windward side of the town. The cost eligible for grant is estimated to be £22,721 0s 0d.

(b) Industrial Smoke Abatement

Observations under the provisions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations 1958 have been made during the year. Practical experience in the use of these Regulations has shown them to be of limited value. There are two main criticisms of the Regulations. The first is that under normal operating conditions a chimney serving four or more furnaces (which includes the majority of industrial chimneys in this area) is allowed to emit an aggregate of 29 minutes dark smoke in any period of eight hours. When the number of chimneys is multiplied by 100, this represents a fairly high degree of pollution permitted every eight hours in a comparatively small but heavily industrialised town such as Widnes. Should there be no continuous emission exceeding four minutes in any period of 30 minutes, observations necessary to prove an offence would have to be continued over a period of eight hours. Practical experience of carrying out smoke observations, with both the Ringelmann Chart, and the "Telesmoke" has proved that a period of observation in excess of half an hour is extremely tiring and leads to errors and inaccuracy in the final result.

The observations made during the year have, however, indicated that in general, industry is taking its responsibilities under the Clean Air Act seriously. There has been a marked reduction in smoke emission from the majority of industrial undertakings in the Borough, and the co-operation received by the department from industry has been good.

FIG.1
RAINFALL
(Inches)

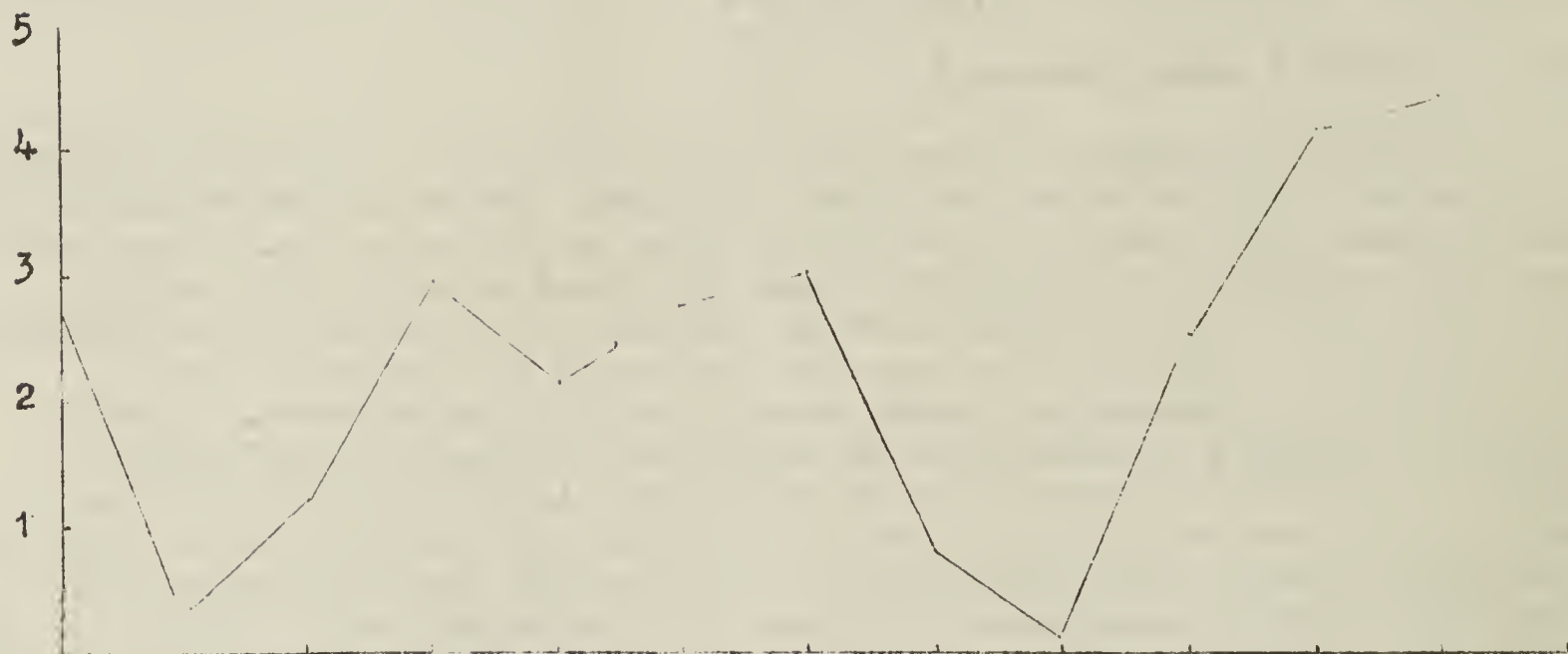


FIG.2
DEPOSITS
(Tons per square mile)

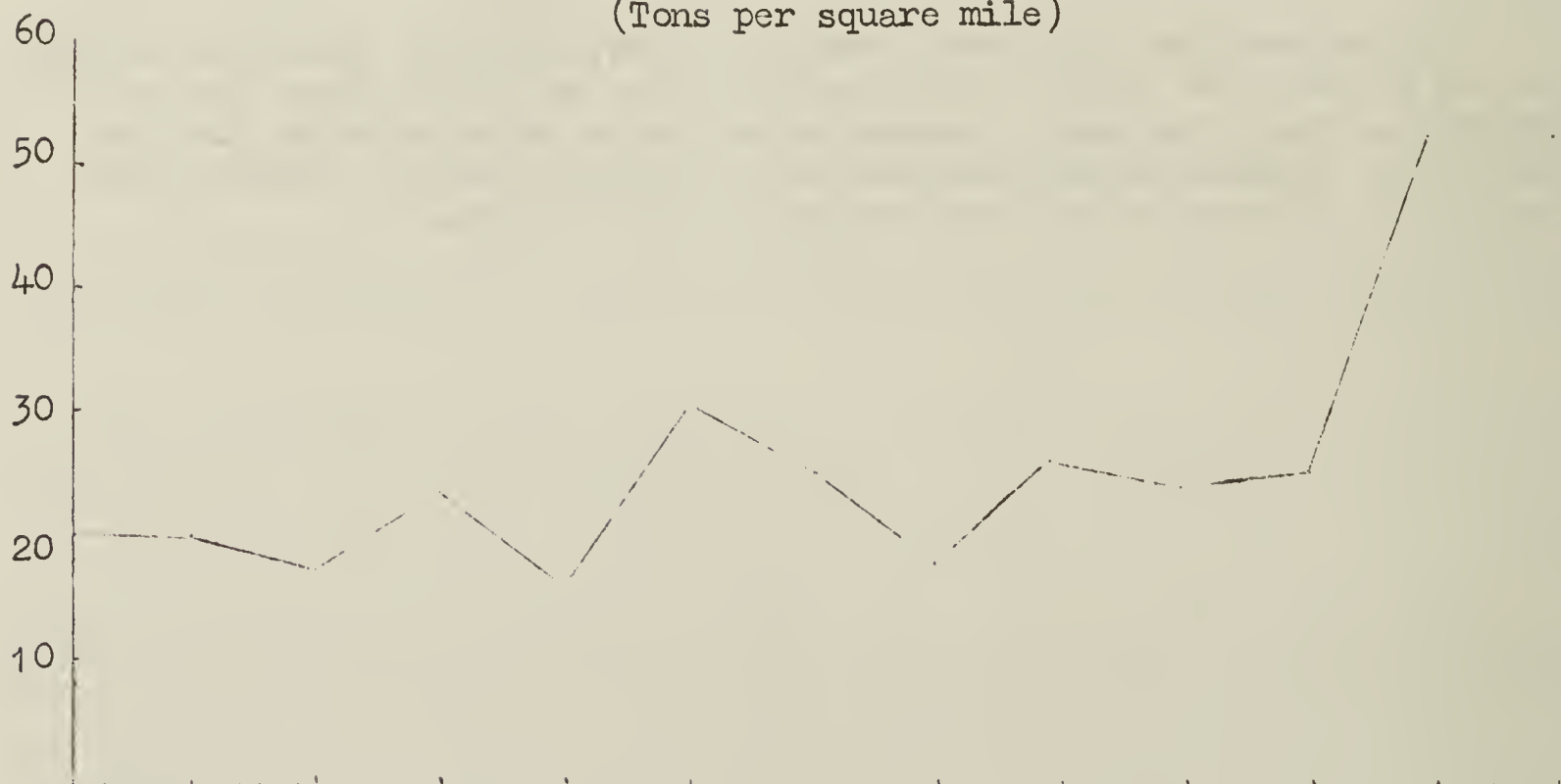
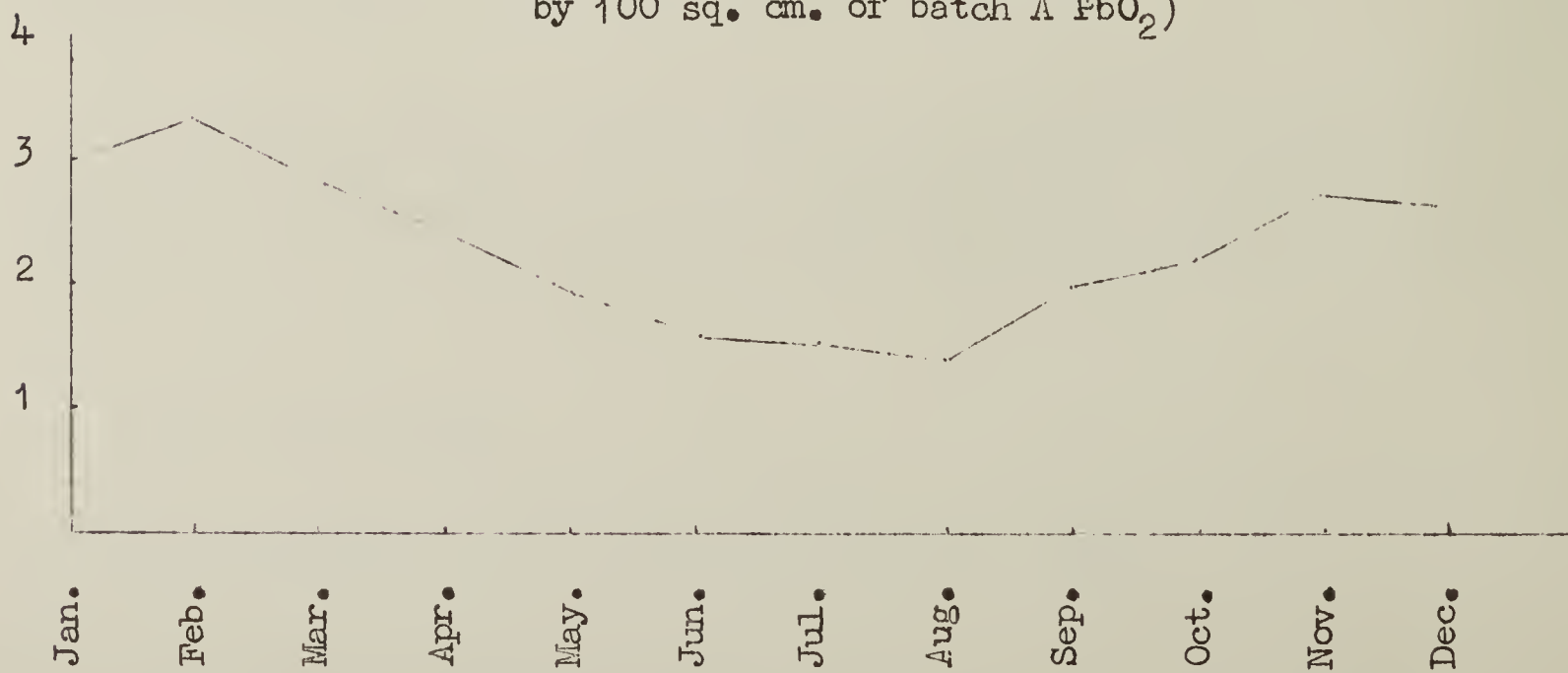
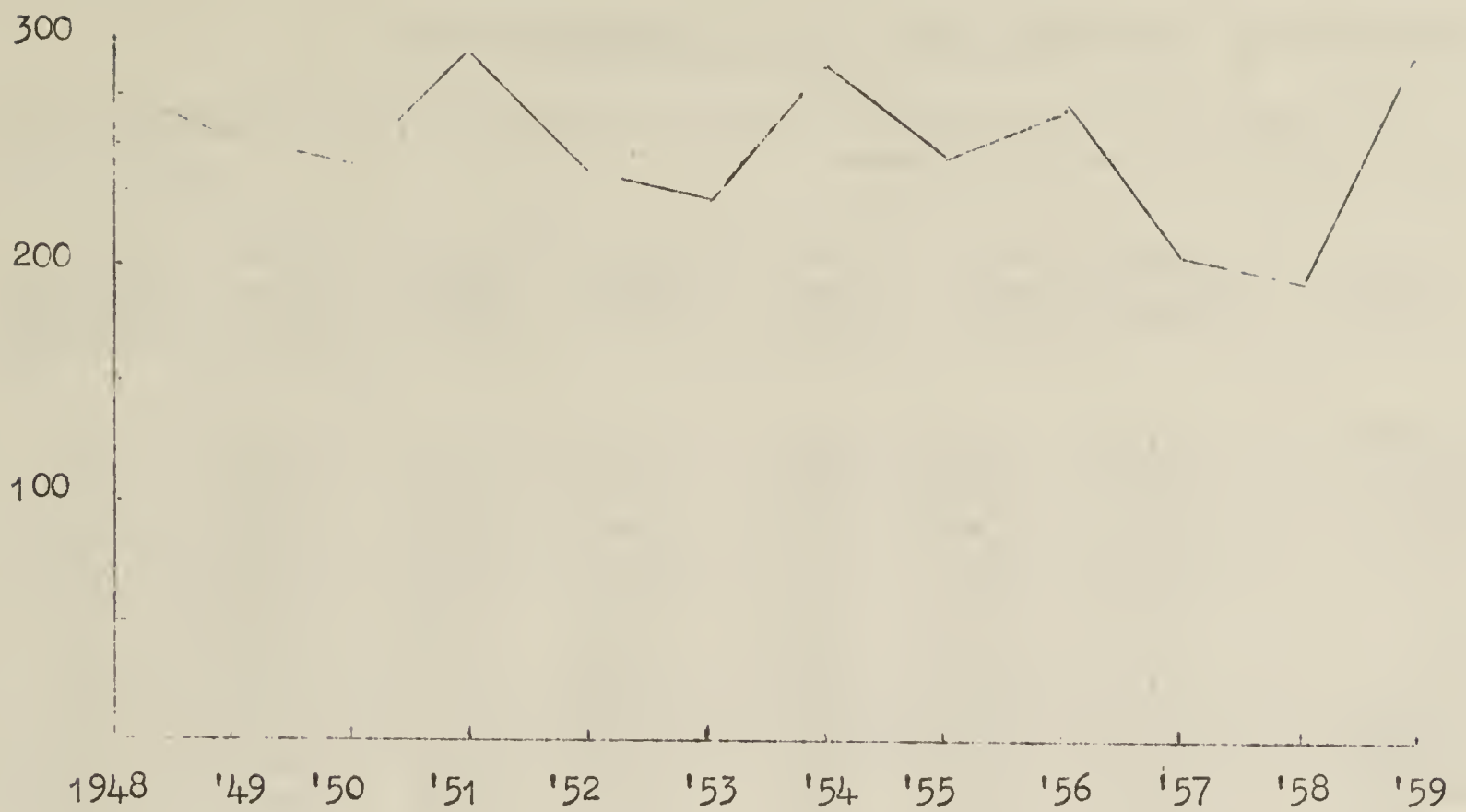


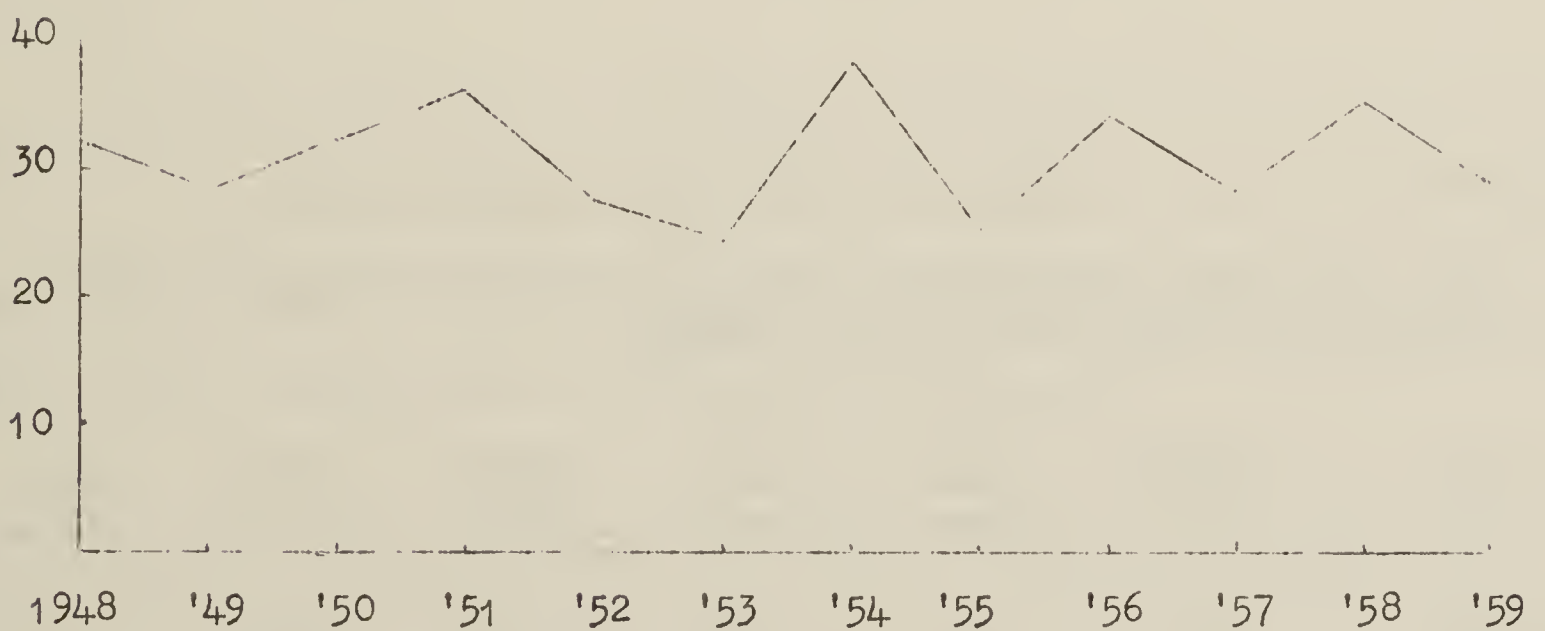
FIG. 3
ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD
PEROXIDE METHOD
(Mg. of SO_3 per day collected
by 100 sq. cm. of batch A PbO_2)



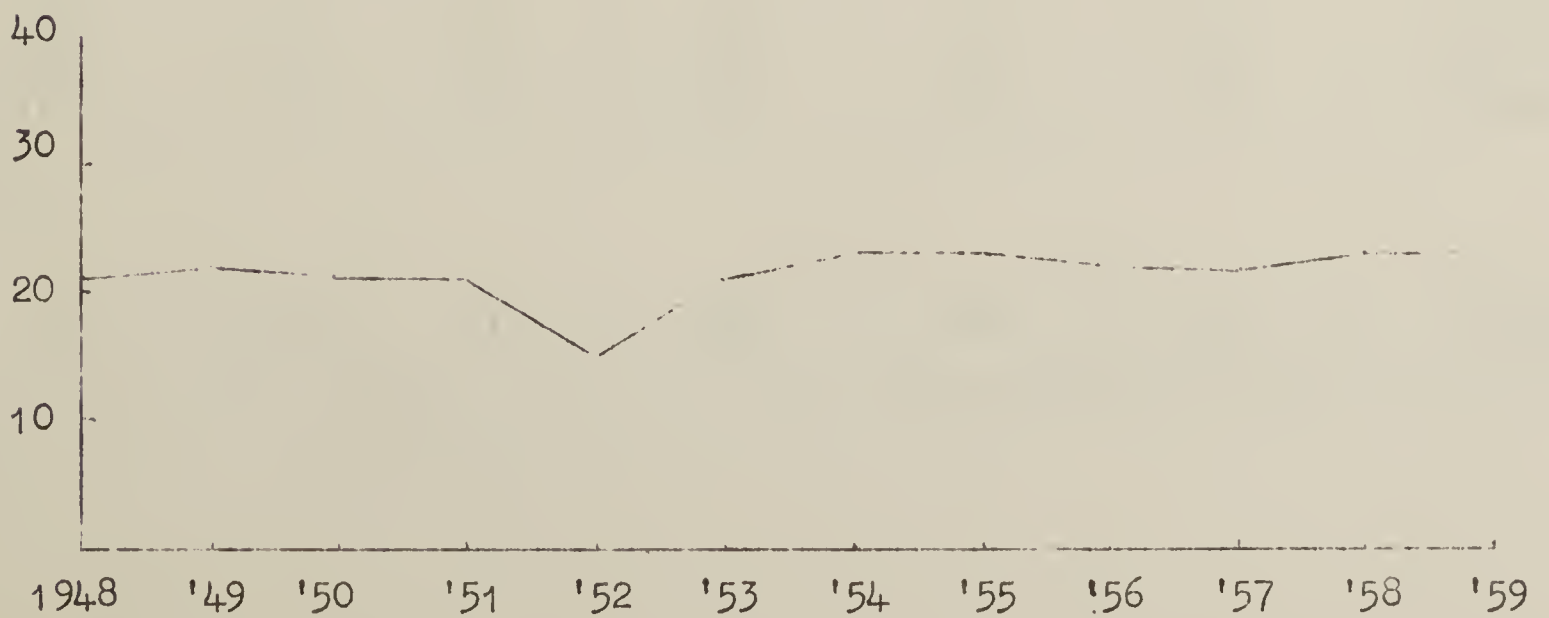
TOTAL DEPOSITS
(Tons per square mile)



TOTAL RAINFALL
(Inches)



ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD
PEROXIDE METHOD
{Mg. of SO₃ per day collected by}
{1,000 sq. cms. of Batch A PbO₂}



MEASUREMENT OF DEPOSITED MATTER WITH THE DEPOSITE GAUGE -

The amount of total solids in tons per square mile, and the average rainfall during 1959 were as follows:-

Month	Health Centre	Liverpool Road	Crow Wood Hosp.	Halebank	Farnworth	Shell Green Farm	Average Rainfall (Inches)
January	30.63	15.51	14.48	19.23	11.12	14.86	2.67
February	30.77	14.87	17.73	25.19	11.04	21.20	0.29
March	37.16	13.20	10.44	14.88	10.92	14.56	1.15
April	41.31	15.31	17.01	22.75	13.66	27.20	2.92
May	22.29	14.04	16.30	15.37	13.18	15.95	2.06
June	23.57	51.30	27.86	20.87	13.90	25.55	2.66
July	31.11	20.59	22.34	15.37	16.60	45.41	3.02
August	22.55	14.55	12.45	16.66	9.83	32.02	0.79
September	38.72	17.21	17.54	26.54	11.13	42.65	0.12
October	29.63	21.77	17.23	29.49	23.67	21.91	2.50
November	41.10	22.53	19.51	23.80	22.35	18.36	4.06
December	32.66	49.69	31.56	70.93	55.37	70.88	4.36
Monthly Average	31.79	22.55	18.70	25.09	17.73	29.21	2.22

MEASUREMENT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE WITH THE LEAD PEROXIDE APPARATUS -

The measurement in milligrams of SO₂ per day per 100 square centimetres of lead peroxide during 1959 was as follows:-

Month	Health Centre	Liverpool Road	Crow Wood Hosp.	Halebank	Farnworth	Shell Green Farm.
January	4.8	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.0	4.2
February	4.7	3.4	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.6
March	4.0	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.7
April	2.9	1.8	2.9	1.8	1.8	3.2
May	1.2	1.7	2.1	2.3	1.4	2.7
June	0.8	2.3	2.1	1.3	1.5	1.1
July	1.0	2.1	1.8	0.7	1.5	1.0
August	1.0	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1
September	1.4	2.7	2.0	2.4	1.7	2.0
October	1.5	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.6	2.3
November	2.2	2.9	2.9	2.2	2.9	2.9
December	2.3	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.9	2.7
Monthly Average	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.5

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

MILK SUPPLY-

Since January, 1954, Widnes has formed part of a Specified Area under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order, 1953. This means that all dealers who retail milk in the Borough must sell their milk under special designation.

The number of milk dealers on the register at the end of the year was 150. There were 149 dealers licensed for the distribution of sterilised milk, 47 for the distribution of pasteurised milk and 23 for the distribution of tuberculin tested milk. One Pasteuriser's Licence and one Supplementary Pasteuriser's Licence were also issued.

Ninety-nine samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Two of these samples failed under the Methylene Blue test, otherwise samples were satisfactory.

Forty five samples of milk were taken and submitted for analysis during the year. Of these, two formal and one informal samples were reported to contain added water and an informal sample was slightly deficient in solids not fat. The amounts of added water were very small and the explanations of the producers were accepted.

ICE CREAM-

One hundred and seventy two premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and one for its manufacture. Thirty one inspections were carried out and premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Seven samples were taken for bacteriological examination, three of which were placed in grade 1. The remaining samples were unsatisfactory, two were grade 3 and two were grade 4. Seven ice cream and one iced lolly samples were submitted for analysis and were reported to be genuine.

Every possible effort was made to ensure a high standard of hygienic handling of ice cream, particularly by street hawkers. In two cases, after warnings had been disregarded, it was decided to take legal action. Fines were obtained in respect of three contraventions of Food Hygiene Regulation 28 and one contravention of Regulation 9.

OTHER FOODS-

Sixty samples of food other than milk were taken for analysis during the year and were, with two exceptions, found to be genuine. One informal sample of lemon curd was reported to be deficient in egg solids but corresponding formal samples subsequently taken were found to be genuine. A sample of lemon flavour tablets was found to contain rancid fat and the stock was destroyed. In addition sixty samples of Chinese Hen Egg Albumen Crystals were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. It was found that thirteen packages were infected with coliform organisms. The remainder were found to have been satisfactorily heat treated and certificates were issued in respect of these.

One thousand and fifty four pounds of miscellaneous foodstuffs were burnt at the destructor as a result of examination and condemnation by Public Health Inspectors and a further fifty three and a half tons of food from the American Air Force Base at Burtonwood was disposed of under the supervision of this department at the Corporation tip.

PUBLIC ANALYST-

During the year it was found expedient to change the Authority's Public Analyst. Mr. J. F. Clark had held this appointment for many years but his terms of appointment with the Corporation of Liverpool, for whom he is City Analyst, now preclude him from analysing samples from other Authorities apart from those of food and drugs. As food and drugs sampling is part only of the sampling work required by the Public Health Department, and the Corporation generally, it was decided to ask for the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to the appointment of Mr. J. G. Sherratt B.Sc., F.R.I.C. as Public Analyst. Mr. Sherratt, whose laboratory is at Flag Lane, Warrington, commenced the sampling of food and drugs from this department with effect from the 1st October.

INSPECTIONS-

During the year Public Health Inspectors made two hundred and sixteen inspections of premises and street trading and food delivery vehicles. In addition to verbal requests fourteen notices were served and complied with. Legal action was taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations in two cases of carrying meat liable to contact the head and neck without wearing a clean and washable head covering. The cases were proved and fines were obtained.

UNSOUND FOOD

The following unwholesome foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

FOOD	lbs	Ozs.	Pints	Gross
Hindquarter of Beef	118	-	-	-
Evaporated Milk	-	-	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	-
Tinned Fruit	58	14	-	-
Tinned Peas	20	7	-	-
Tinned Tomatoes	40	14	-	-
Fresh Tomatoes	10	-	-	-
Soup	4	15	-	-
Tinned Crab	-	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-
Stewed Steak	11	6	-	-
Corned Beef	137	-	-	-
Pork Luncheon Meat	284	5	-	-
Cooked Ham	164	13	-	-
Tinned Cream	-	6	-	-
Tongue	30	-	-	-
Baked Beans	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-
Tinned Salmon	4	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-
Tinned Pork Shoulder	63	6	-	-
Chuck Steak	1	8	-	-
Tinned Fish	4	10	-	-
Tinned Chicken	-	4	-	-
Chickens	43	-	-	-
Tinned Pudding	4	13	-	-
Pigs Liver	-	8	-	-
Sardines	3	2	-	-
Jelly Crystals	7	-	-	-
Coffee	-	10	-	-
Minced Beef Loaf	-	12	-	-
Tinned Steak	2	-	-	-
Uncooked Ham	28	-	-	-
Frozen Egg	28	-	-	-
Meat Paste	-	1	-	-
Lemon Flavour Tablets	-	-	-	22

FOOD SAMPLING

The following statement shows the number of samples taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the results of the analysis:-

Sample of	No. of Samples	Genuine	Not Genuine	Remarks
Milk	45	41	4	3 contained added water and one sample was slightly deficient in solids not fat.
Cream	2	2	-	
Beef Sausage	2	2	-	
Table Jelly	1	1	-	
Margarine	2	2	-	
Cut Mixed Peel	1	1	-	
Lemon Curd	3	2	1	Deficient of egg solids.
Lemon Cheese	2	2	-	
Pork Sausage	3	3	-	
Cheese Whiz	1	1	-	
Tomato Purée	1	1	-	
Fish Cakes	1	1	-	
Fruit Sauce	1	1	-	
Lemon Juice	1	1	-	
Short Pastry Mix	1	1	-	
Suet Dumpling Mixture	1	1	-	
Sunny Spread	1	1	-	
Ground Almonds	2	2	-	
Macaroni	1	1	-	
Beef Suet	3	3	-	
Potted Salmon	3	3	-	
Buttered Cheese	1	1	-	
Nut Mix	1	1	-	
Stuffing	1	1	-	
Charma Sausage	1	1	-	
Yoghurt	1	1	-	
Ravioli in Tomato Sauce	1	1	-	
Ground Ginger	1	1	-	
Cooked Pork	1	1	-	
Mandarin Oranges	1	1	-	
Knickerbocker Glory	1	1	-	
Marzipan	1	1	-	
Ice Cream	7	7	-	
Mixed Spice	1	1	-	
Sandwich Spread	1	1	-	
Skinless Frankfurters	1	1	-	
Iced Lollies	1	1	-	
Lemon Flavour Tablets	1	-	1	Contained rancid fat.
Orange Crush	1	1	-	
Salted Peanuts	1	1	-	
Butter	1	1	-	

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS -

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to enforced by Local Authorities	32	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	154	14	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	5	2	-	-
TOTAL	191	16	3	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND -

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	2	-

3. OUTWORK -

During the year notification was received of two outworkers employed in the manufacture of wearing apparel.

